

In the Specification

Page 5 line 24 to Page 6 line 2:

The system 4 is accessible in the manner of an Internet web site. Using a suitable Internet enabled device, any recipient party 6 may apply for use of the system 4. Stored within the database 10 are a plurality of entries each relating to a recipient party. At the time of acceptance for inclusion in the database 10, the system 4 assigns to each recipient party a unique identifier typically of the form name.for.individual @ presence.system.location.address. The prefix of the identifier is used as the key field in the database 10 for each entry, that is, the entry is stored according to the prefix and, subsequently, the prefix is used to access the relevant entry. Once accepted for inclusion, a recipient party may access their entry for details entry and for maintenance and updating purposes as illustrated in Step 10 of Figure 2.

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Each initiating party 8 may have several communication devices, all capable of connecting to the network 2, such as a POTS handset 22, a WAP mobile telephone 24, a PC 26 and hand held computer 28. An initiating party 8 will fall into one of two categories: Either it will know the unique identifier for the recipient party 6, and it may use this to make contact with the recipient party as illustrated in Step 12 of Figure 2; or it may determine the unique identifier using the contact information it has available, such as name, address occupation etc. as illustrated in Step 14 of Figure 2.

The process of determining the unique identifier involves an initiating party 8 accessing and querying the system 4. In the event that the initiating party 8 wishes to communicate using the PC 26, a WAP mobile telephone 24, a hand held computer 28 or any other Internet enabled device, the system 4 is accessed in the manner of accessing a web site. In response, a search page is downloaded to the device 24, 26, 28. The page includes various blank boxes or input ports into which the initiating party 8 may insert query criteria, that is, what it knows of the recipient party's personal details. The system 4 will return any matches, possibly more than one according to the specificity of the query criteria. In the case of

multiple matches, there will be an option to select one of the or further to hone the query criteria. One or more matches may be stored in a communications application loaded on to the device 24, 26, 28 for later use. Alternatively, a match may be used straight away. Use may be on a "click to call" basis with the unique identifier presented as a link on a further downloaded page. From information stored within the device 24, 26, and 28 the identity of the initiating party 8 is sent to the system 4. The identity is compared with the identities of known initiating parties 8 included in the recipient party's entry. If a known initiating party is determined, the communication rules applicable to that party are invoked. If the initiating party is unknown, the default rules are invoked. Data is returned to the initiating party's device 24, 26, 28 according to the invoked rules as illustrated in step 18 of Figure 2.